



2018 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP



Bills we supported

Total: 12

Passed: 6

Defeated: 6

Bills we opposed

Total: 3

Defeated: 3

State funds leveraged

\$1.64 million for Civil Rights Division

\$564,000 for school lunches

\$143,000 for driver's licenses

State funds saved

\$62,000 in prison cost increases

Federal funds leveraged

\$4.1 million for school lunches

\$496,000 for Civil Rights Division

Federal funds defended

\$5.8 billion in Medicaid receipts

Good wins and tough losses

The 2018 legislative session was one of successes and failures for our advocacy priorities. Six bills that we supported passed successfully and were signed by the Governor. In addition, three bills that we opposed were defeated. But six bills we supported were also defeated. Overall, we were pleased with some of the progress that was made regarding school meals, renters' protections, and civil rights. There is still far to go when it comes to paid family & medical leave, as well as support for our homeless neighbors. This sheet offers a summary of the bills we advocated for and against in the 2018 Colorado legislative session.

Hunger

We joined a large coalition to support **Senate Bill 13** (Sens. Gardner/Fields), which the Governor signed on May 31. The bill expands the School Lunch Protection Act to include grades 6-8, with state funds covering the copay and the federal government reimbursing 7-to-1 for each reduced-price lunch served. This will keep kids fed and ready to learn.

Economic Security

We supported **House Bill 1001** (Reps. Winter/Gray), the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. Family leave is an important step in securing stable economic situations for people who need time to attend to serious medical needs or the birth of a child, without risking the loss of a job or steady income. The bill passed the House but was defeated in the Senate.

Another defeated bill which we supported was **HB 1192** (Reps. Landgraf/Michaelson Jenet), Application Assistance for Federal Disability Benefits. The bill would've helped those applying for Social Security Disability Insurance, but the sponsors ended up killing the bill when a source of funds could not be identified.

Success came with **SB 5** (Sens. Donovan/Scott), Rural Economic Advancement of Colorado Towns. Although funds for recovery grants were removed from the bill, it will allow the Department of Local Affairs to help municipalities coordinate responses in the event of a major economic disruption, such as a plant closure or major layoffs.

Civil Rights

The successful and unopposed passage of **HCR 1002** (Reps. Melton/Salazar) means that voters will have a chance to abolish slavery fully from the Colorado Constitution this fall. The measure, known as Amendment A, asks voters to repeal the exception to the ban on slavery in Article II, Section 26. [This fall, Vote Yes on A!](#)

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission was reauthorized when the Governor signed **HB 1256** (Reps. Duran/Herod) in a public ceremony on May 22. We supported the renewal of this crucial apparatus for Coloradans to review and contest civil rights disputes.

Finally, we supported the passage of **SB 108** (Sens. Coram/Crowder), which will allow undocumented residents of Colorado to more easily obtain or renew a driver's license. This makes our streets safer while helping expand access to this critical identification document. The bill was signed into law on May 29.

Housing & Homelessness

Multiple housing advocacy groups supported **SB 10** (Sens. A. Williams/Martinez Humenik). The bill passed this year after stalling last year. It will require landlords to provide a copy of the lease to tenants as well as the provision of receipts for rent paid in cash or money order, with the aim of reducing misunderstandings that might lead to fines or eviction. The bill was signed into law in March.

We supported three other bills to expand housing access and stability that failed. **SB 57** (Sen. Kagan) would have prevented landlords from using certain nonviolent criminal records as a pretext for excluding people from housing. **SB 120** (Sens. Priola/A. Williams) would have expanded the time period that a tenant was allowed to pay back rent. And **HB 1432** (Rep. Herod) would have prohibited source-of-income discrimination, allowing tenants to use any legal means of income to pay for rent.



Finally, we supported the Homeless Right to Rest Act, **HB 1067** (Reps. Salazar/Melton), which was defeated in the House Local Government Committee. The bill would have affirmed the rights of homeless persons to access public spaces in the same way as everyone else. We hope to support future proposals that will tackle the root causes of homelessness.

Criminal Justice

Two bills came forward around sanctuary city policies that we opposed. **HB 1178** (Rep. D. Williams) would have criminalized the conduct of public officials who vote for sanctuary jurisdictions, on the mistaken premise that undocumented immigrants commit crimes at higher rates than U.S. citizens (the opposite is true). **SB 220** (Sen. T. Neville) would have forced local jurisdictions to cooperate in extrajudicial detention of people without warrants whenever Immigration and Customs Enforcement requested it. Both bills died in the House State Affairs Committee.

Health Care

We partnered with other members of the Protect Our Care coalition to oppose **SB 214** (Sen. Crowder), which would have put significant and unnecessary limits and restrictions on recipients of Medicaid. The bill died on a bipartisan vote in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

Thank you for your support and for joining us in advocacy!